
NEWS From:

Congressman Mike Honda

FIFTEENTH DISTRICT - CALIFORNIA



For Immediate Release

Dec. 20, 2002

Contact: Ruben Pulido Jr.

202.225.3327 ruben.pulido@mail.house.gov

Rep. Honda Questions Effectiveness of INS Arrests of Hundreds of Boys and Men from Middle East

San Jose, Calif., Dec. 20, 2002 — Today, Rep. Mike Honda (D-San Jose) openly questioned the effectiveness of the INS Special Registration program that has led to the arrest of hundreds of boys and men of Middle Eastern descent who voluntarily complied with a new INS reporting program. Rep. Honda is an outspoken defender of civil liberties in Congress. As a child, he and his family were imprisoned in an internment camp in Colorado during World War II.

Rep. Honda released the following statement:

“I am deeply concerned about the arrests of hundreds of boys and men of Middle Eastern descent. I question the effectiveness of this program, and whether it is wise to seemingly punish persons who voluntarily agreed to cooperate with the new INS policy. I doubt that persons guilty of terrorist activities would voluntarily cooperate with the INS, and unfortunately, I do believe that these arrests have unnecessarily caused more fear and distrust from a community we need to have a close relationship with for our war against terror.

“As we work to keep our nation secure, it is imperative that the government does not pursue policies that are overly broad, or that are counterproductive to the original goal of increasing security in our borders.”